Take your daughter to work day, page 2.

Transporter

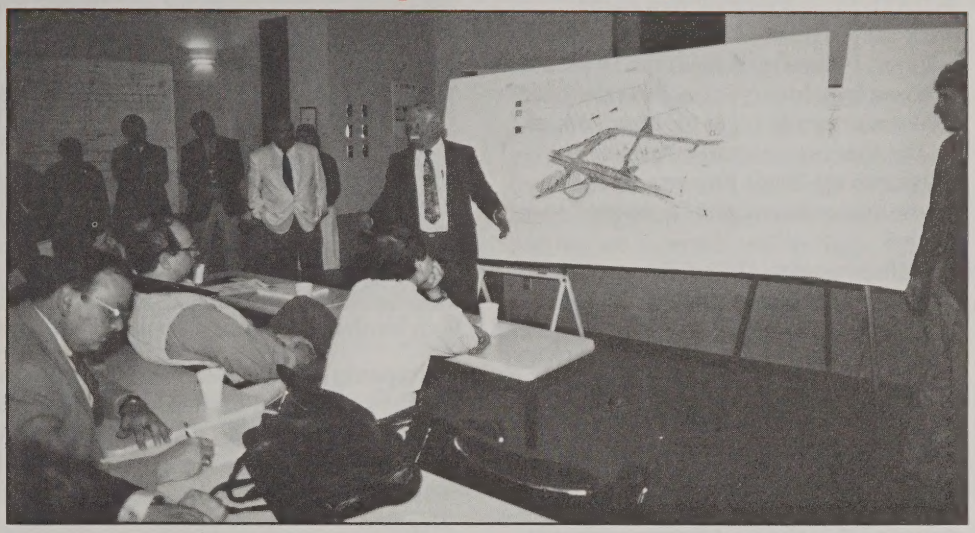
For the employees and retirees of the New Jersey Department of Transportation

Value engineering teams save Department $84 million

Two value engineering teams saved the taxpayers of New Jersey $84 million and received awards in March from Assistant Commissioner Ken Afferton for doing so.

The team that did a value engineering analysis of the Routes 1&9 Truck Route over St. Paul Avenue in Jersey City walked away with the 1994 Most Innovative Proposal award for saving $80 million. The award went to John Gahwyler, Traffic Operations North; Paul Hoffman, Region 3 Construction; Milind Kasbekar, Region 3 Materials; Gary Leach, Preliminary Engineering; Paul Lenk, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); Martin Livingston, Traffic Engineering; Danielle Outlaw, Bridge Design; Julie Seaman, Environmental Analysis and Greg Spiritosanto, Region 3 Design.

The 1994 Most Cost Effective Proposal Award was granted to the team that worked on the Route 7 Bridge over the Passaic River. The team included Raymond Burroughs, Region 2 Maintenance; Daniel Clark, FHWA, Wayne Huntsinger, Region 4 Construction; Robert Morley, Par-Troy Right of Way; Jules Oroszvary, Environmental Analysis; Jay Patel, Region 4 Design, and Robert Schoenen, Bridge Services. The recommendations provided a cost savings of $4 million or 10% of the original project cost.



Mike Millar from Par-Troy Right of Way presents his team's proposal for the Routes 130/539 Circle elimination at the March workshop. Joe Coult Photo.

The 1995 Value Engineering Workshop took place in March. The 43 participants came from NJDOT, the FHWA and the Parkway. Five projects were analyzed this year: Routes 46/3/Valley Road, Route 130/539 Circle Elimination, Route 70 over the Manasquan River, Routes 295/42/76 Interchange and Routes 1&9 Elizabeth River Viaduct. The potential savings proposed by the teams is $82 million.

NJDOT continues to be one of the top five states in the nation for annual value engineering cost savings. In the last five years, value engineering proposals actually implemented into designs have exceeded $204 million in savings. The design approval rate for value engineered projects is 90% with many of the recommendations coming directly from workshops.

— Lisa Ninesling

Project Spotlight

Route 73 gets smarter

Come summer, Route 73 will be a lot smarter.

A computerized traffic control system, part of the smart highway technology, will go on line along Route 73 between the Berlin traffic circle and the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge in Camden and Burlington Counties.

Replete with video cameras at key intersections and a permanent message board at the Route 73/90 split, the new system promises harried commuters in a hurry a happier, more holistic traveling experience. The message board will direct motorists to either the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge or the Betsy Ross Bridge, depending on traffic conditions.

"We're expecting delays to be reduced an average of about 10 percent," said Kurt Aufschneider, Manager of Traffic Operations South. "That will help us improve air quality and get accidents cleared quicker."

The $5.2 million system covers a 16.5-mile segment of the busy commuter artery. It will be controlled from the Traffic Operations South offices in Mount Laurel.

Work begins on Route 169

Commissioner Frank J. Wilson and local officials on April 26 marked the start of a $22 million project to widen Route 169 in Hudson County.

The portion of highway between East 30th Street in Bayonne and Route 185 in Jersey City presently has one lane in each direction. This 1.3-mile segment will be widened to two lanes in each direction, connecting to the existing four-lane segments. The existing roadway and two bridges also will be reconstructed.

"Transportation investments such as this provide mobility and access, and that helps attract business," Wilson said. "This project, funded by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, will benefit residents, motorists, freight movement, the business community and the construction industry. The Hudson River Waterfront is burgeoning and the highway and mass transit improvements we're building today will benefit the region for years to come."

The project, being constructed by Conti Enterprises Inc. of South Plainfield, is scheduled for completion by the end of 1997.

Governor Christine Todd Whitman • Commissioner Frank J. Wilson • Vol. 29, No. 5, May 18, 1995

NJDOT daughters enjoy a day at work

"I learned that women can do anything they want to do," said 11-year old Ewere Osian of the Department's third annual Take Your Daughter to Work Day on April 27.

Ewere was one of the 160 girls — daughters, relatives and friends of NJDOTers — who took part in the national program at headquarters and the regions. Fifteen girls from the Department (chosen by a lottery) also participated in a Governor's program at the State House.

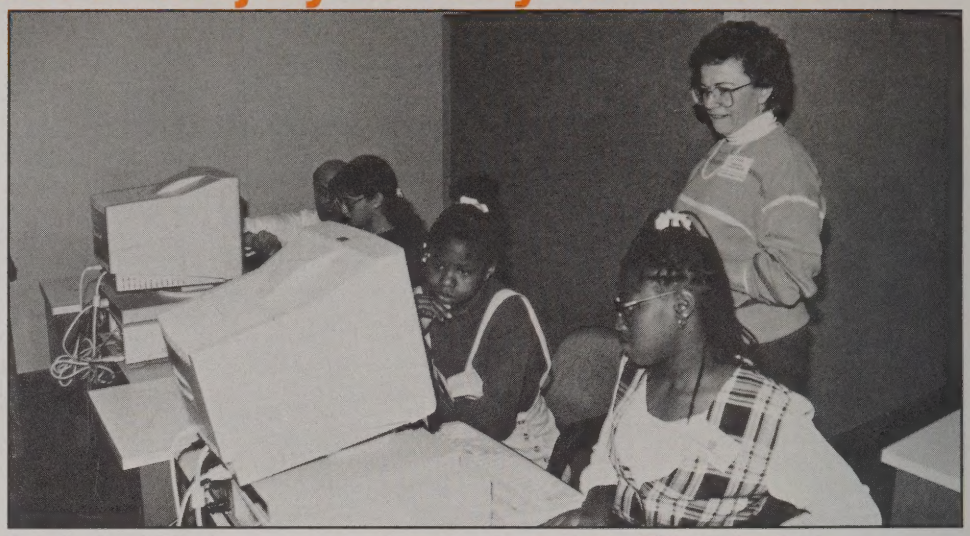
The four regions had 60 children participating. Their program included tours, discussions and a "field trip" to a bridge.

At headquarters, 100 children participated in the program which included a morning session showcasing women with careers in transportation including NJDOT archaeologist, Laura Lee Rappleye Marsett; NJDOT environmental scientist, Janet Fittipaldi; airline pilot and flight instructor, Joan Jones; NJDOT computer specialist, Deb Synder; NJDOT engineer, Caroline Trueman and Communications professional, Camille Sinclair. The children spent their afternoon at headquarters on the job with their parent or sponsor.

Gail Charles, Director of Civil Rights and Affirmative Action, was the mistress of ceremonies and Patricia Zedalis, Assistant Commissioner for Planning and Demonstration, was the keynote speaker during the opening session.

Commissioner Frank J. Wilson and Deputy Commissioner Sharon Landers greeted the girls during the afternoon wrap-up session.

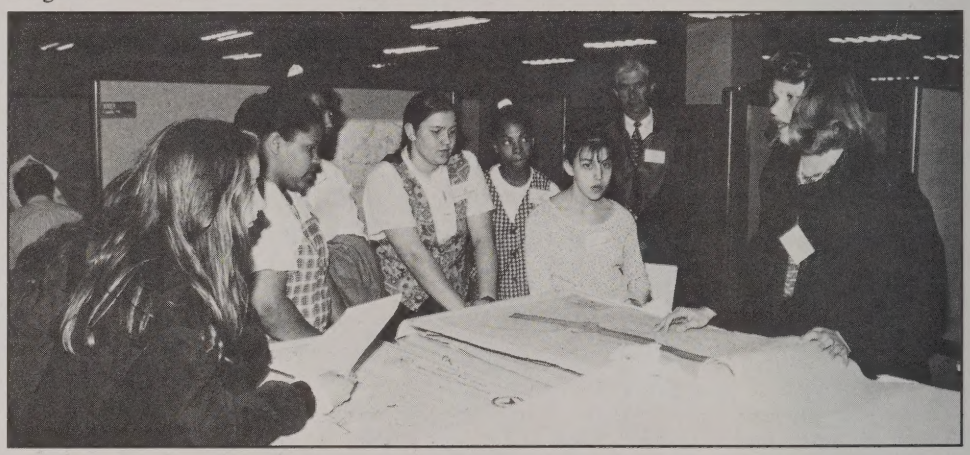
Certificates and "goodie bags" were distributed as well as evaluation "report cards" in which the children provided their comments on the day.



Deb Snyder, MIS, gives a computer demonstration to visiting NJDOT daughters.

In response to the question: "If you could have any job, what would it be?"

Answers ranged from Commissioner to airline pilot to zoologist and everything in between, including mechanic, baseball player, cartoonist or poet, computer specialist, writer, dolphin trainer, missionary, marine biologist, secretary, veterinarian, doctor, archaeologist and fashion designer. One girl responded, "None here. I want to be a lifeguard."



Caroline Trueman, Region 2 Design, explains her job as Senior Engineer. Group chaperone Richard Melini, Communications, looks on. Joe Coult photos.

Smart NJ starts with transportation

Assistant Commissioner Ken Afferton speaks before the Committee for a Smart New Jersey (CSNJ) meeting on Economic Development Opportunities in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) held April 7. Afferton is CSNJ Chairman of the Board. Seated is Harry Voccola of Lockheed IMS, Task Force Chairman of the Subcommittee for Economic Development Opportunities in ITS. CSNJ has been working to foster technology as a way to solve transportation problems. Among the items discussed at the forum were regional traffic management, clean air and environmental technologies, commercial vehicle operations and electronic commerce. Commissioner Frank J. Wilson delivered the keynote address Larry McElmoyl photo.

Transporter

Governor Christine T. Whitman
Commissioner Frank J. Wilson
Director Alyn Ackermann

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People BRIEFS

Indian Festival

NJDOT will be providing the Powhatan Renape Nation, located on the Rankokus Indian Reservation in Burlington County, 200 traffic cones for their May 27 arts festival.

Wedding Bells

Wedding bells rang out on March 11 for **Peggy Seydow**, Executive Assistant 2, Transportation Assistance, and Anthony Lennon.

Births

Kim Mooring, Region III Design and her husband, **Gene**, Region I Design, are the proud parents of a daughter, Kiara Dominique, born on April 3.

Karen Craft, Secretarial Assistant II ETR and her husband Kip welcomed 7 lb. 7 oz., Jamie Lyn, their second child, on February 23.

Bogdan Chivulescu, Assistant Engineer and his wife, Nina, welcomed a son, Robert, on March 15. He joins sister Carina, 4.

Retiree News

Former NJDOT Director of Public Information, **Moray Epstein**, writes from California to announce publication of his book, *Ports in a Storm*, the voyage of a merchant seaman through World War II. Anyone interested in contacting him or ordering a copy at $12.55 can reach Moray at 8030 Via San Saba, San Diego, CA 92122-5453.

Obituaries

David Brooks, 87, died in March. He retired in 1977 after 50 years with the Department as a Principal Engineer in Construction. He is survived by his wife, Catherine, a son and daughter and four grandchildren.

Sebastian W. Graziano, 83, died April 10. He retired in 1966 after 11 years with NJDOT as a Maintenance Worker II in Region 4 Construction. He is survived by his wife, Josephine, two daughters and six grandchildren.

William Quash, 51, died March 13. He was employed as a Senior Transportation Analyst in the office of Regulatory Affairs. He is survived by his wife, Carol, a son and two daughters.

Anthony M. Russo, 73, died March 12. He joined the Department in 1942 as a file clerk and retired in 1980 as Administrative Supervisor I in Maintenance. He is survived by his wife, Maria, a daughter and two grandchildren.

Carlo Trapani, 73, died April 7. He retired July 1, 1977 as an Assistant Foreman in Region 4 after 24 years of service. He is survived by three sons, a brother, two sisters and a granddaughter.

Walter H. Weiss, 73, died April 11. He retired in 1987 after 11 years of service as a Principal Drafting Technician, Design. He is survived by his wife, Josephine, a son and daughter and two grandchildren.

Thank you

Dear Employees,

I would like to thank those who contributed to the Annual Coat Drive... through your generosity, over 5500 items of clothing were collected and delivered to homeless shelters.

Sincerely,
Linda F. Golden, Director,
Governor's Office of Volunteerism.

To all NJDOTers,

My family and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to helping us overcome the loss of our home to fire. As it is impossible to thank everyone in person, we hope this will suffice.

The Mathews Family
Jeff, Asst. Crew Supervisor, Crew 3, Sussex; Barbara, Steph and Kendra.

Golfers gather in MD

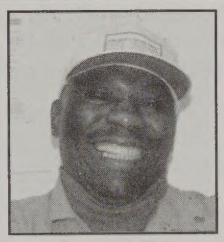
Current and retired NJDOTers, along with friends and relatives, participated in a three-day golf vacation in Ocean City, MD in March. "The weather cooperated very well," said Bill Young, a recent retiree.

The group played one round of golf daily on the many courses scattered on Maryland's Eastern Shore, including a course designed by professional golfer Gary Player. Other NJDOTers participating were Tom Wospil, Dennis Keck, Howard Immordino, Ken Kyte, George Kuziw, Eddie Robertson, Lou Varga, Rich Jablonski and John Dourgarian.

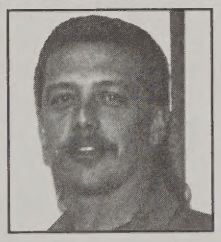
Note: International Day has been postponed until the fall.

ESP-South present awards

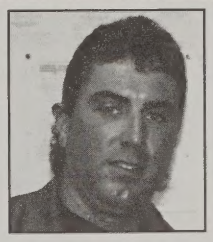
Traffic Operations South recently presented awards to Emergency Service Patrol members for "achievements" during the past year, a year in which they assisted almost 9,000 stranded motorists. The ESP crew members polled themselves for the more light-hearted honors.



Gilbert Toomer
"Best Dressed"



Michael Metcalf
"Most Flats Fixed"

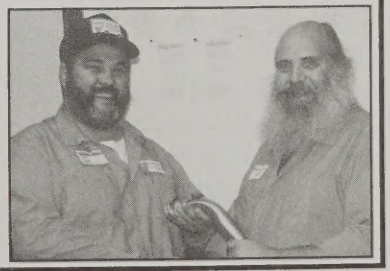


Ryan McCann
"Best Attitude"

Mark Williams
"Best Kept Locker"

Pat Ott, Principal Engineer, left, congratulates Dispatcher Susan Draus on winning "Best Radio Voice"

Emergency Service Patrol
South



George Gramlich, Crew Supervisor, right, congratulates Jeffrey Ogbin on winning both "Heroism & Most Debris Retrieved" awards.

Three retirees give new meaning to volunteering

Most of us look forward to retirement in the hope of doing all those things we never had time for when working. But three NJDOT retirees have decided to return to work as part of an experiment in volunteerism.

"We have had a problem finding backup for our regular receptionists," said Peter Yull, Manager of Central Services "The idea of asking for volunteers came from Donald Chiacchio, Director of Support Services."

A notice was printed in the DOTRA newsletter published by the Department's Retiree Association asking for help. Three retirees responded. They are: Hazel Rockhill, Callie Olexy and Betty D'Arcy.

Each volunteer spends about 4 hours a day, three days a week, assisting visitors and directing calls at Department Headquarters.

Hazel Rockhill who retired in 1993, was an executive secretary in the office of the Assistant Commissioner for Construction and Maintenance. She sees her return as an opportunity to keep busy and see old friends. Rockhill believes in keeping active and does a lot of walking to stay trim. She recently participated in an 8.5-mile Aloha Run/Walk in Hawaii.

Callie Olexy, whose daughter and son-in-law, Janice and Frank Stia, are NJDOT employees, retired in 1991 after 28 years of service. She lives close to Headquarters and saw the program as "a chance to give something back to the Department and the people of New Jersey."

Betty D'Arcy, whose last post was with the Legal Unit, retired in 1993. She views it as a "chance to get out of the house."

Karen Reynolds, MOB Receptionist, is grateful for their help.

Volunteers Betty D'Arcy and Callie Olexy assist Karen Reynolds (center) at the MOB reception desk.

Blue Ribbons

Special thanks to G. Malara, Chief Bridge Operator, Route 35, Manasquan River bridge for the special tour he conducted for the Ocean County Vocational School from Freehold. The class had the opportunity to play "bridge operator" and learn how a computer control system interacts with electro-mechanical equipment to lift a bridge.

Maria J. Iadanza, Assistant Engineer, Electrical, Freehold (Tour Organizer)

To Raymond Kauffman, Bridge Repair 1, Maintenance Engineering:

I would like to congratulate you for aiding the Belleville Police in apprehending an alleged car thief under the Route 7, Passaic River bridge. Without your assistance, the police might not have apprehended the person or recovered the stolen items.

Alfred Brenner, Maint. Engineering

To the Emergency Service Patrol:

Traveling I-295 every day, I see your staff helping numerous people and got some help myself, today.

Outstanding program!

Officer S. Swierczynsky, Cherry Hill Police.

Calling all retirees...

The Department's Retirement Association "DOTRA" will hold its annual luncheon and election of officers on Wednesday, June 7, 12:30 p.m. at Peroni's Restaurant on Rte. 29, just north of I-95 and the Scudders Falls Bridge. A friendship hour will precede the luncheon. The cost is $15 and interested members should contact Peg Wieger at 609-882-2263.

Retirees interested in joining the organization may contact Guy LoBue at 609-585-4979.

DOTRA regularly sponsors a variety of sporting and social events as well as bus trips to theatre and points of interest.

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